previous home, the one lived in during the relevant years was at a place called The Baakens. This was on the farm Driefontein, which has been since subdivided into the farms Woodlands and Goodwoods, and I now restrict the type locality of *Glaucidium c. capense* to **17 km west of Bathurst, eastern Cape Province, at 33°32′S, 26°37′E.**

In *Durban Mus. Novit.* (1980) xii(12): 145, Clancey proposed the Uitenhage district of the eastern Cape as the type locality, this being the home of Krebs, who might have collected the owl. That suggestion, however, has now been overtaken by the fact that Smith noted, though he did not name, the farm where his bird was secured.

To close with a repeat of another piece of historical interest. Bathurst was the first administrative centre of the 1820 Settlers. Metrowich, in his book already mentioned, tells us that Alexander Biggar emigrated to the Cape from Scotland in 1820 in the *Weymouth*, bringing with him his wife Mary, of Stirling, and their family of 9 daughters and 2 sons. Alexander later took part in the battle of Blood River, but subsequently he and both his sons were killed fighting the Zulus.

Address: Col. Jack Vincent, Firle, P.O. Box 44, Mooi River, Natal, S. Africa.

© British Ornithologists' Club 1990

Description of a new subspecies of *Saltator aurantiirostris*, with comments on *S. maxillosus*

by José Maria Cardoso da Silva

Received 14 February 1990

The Golden-billed Saltator *Saltator aurantiirostris* is distributed over a large area of western South America, from Peru to Argentina (Meyer de Schauensee 1982). The first study of the geographic variation of this species was carried out by Chapman (1927), followed by that of Hellmayr (1938) and most recently by that of Paynter (1970). Paynter recognized only 2 subspecies in the southernmost part of the species' distribution: *S. a. aurantiirostris* Vieillot, from the south of Bolivia, north of Argentina (except Missiones), Paraguay, Brazil (Rio Grande do Sul and Mato Grosso do Sul) and Uruguay; and *S. a. nasica* Wetmore & Peters, from west-central Argentina (La Rioja, San Juan, Mendoza and western La Pampa). The latter differs from the nominate subspecies by having on average a slightly larger bill (Chapman 1927, Hellmayr 1938).

A total of 106 specimens collected within the geographic range of *S. a. aurantiirostris*, deposited at the American Museum of Natural History (AMNH), was analysed for the present study. This analysis resulted in the identification of a separate population of *S. aurantiirostris* that exhibits a combination of characteristics derived from both *S. a. aurantiirostris* and *S. maxillosus* Cabanis, from southeastern Brazil, in addition to unique plumage traits, justifying the designation of a new

subspecies. Capitalized colour names with number indicate direct comparison with Smithe's Color Guide (1975, 1981).

Saltator aurantiirostris parkesi subsp. nov.

Holotype. Adult ♂ (AMNH 780694) from Estância Vizcacheras, Santa Elena, Entre Rios, Argentina. Collected by W. H. Partridge and P. S. Humphrey on 27 May 1961.

Paratypes. 3 adult ♂♂ (AMNH 780688, 780690, 780691) and one adult ♀ (AMNH 780728) from the type locality.

Diagnosis. Similar to *S. a. aurantiirostris* and *S. maxillosus* but easily distinguishable from them by the adults having Warm Buff (118) eyebrows instead of white.

Description of holotype. Forehead black; top of head Blackish Gray (82); malar and auricular regions black; long eyebrow, chin and throat Warm Buff (118); narrow black band across Smoke Gray (44) breast; belly, sides and flanks Raw Umber (123) × Cinnamon (123A); under tail coverts Cinnamon (123A); back Olive (30); dorsal surface of rectrices Blackish Neutral Gray (82), ventral surface Dark Neutral Gray (83).

Measurements of holotype (mm): Wing (flattened) 101.0; tail 97.5; exposed culmen 21.5; tarsus 29.0.

Distribution (see 'Specimens examined'). Known from Argentina: Entre Rios (Santa Elena and Gualeguay); Brazil: Rio Grande do Sul (Livramento, Passo da Conceição); Uruguay (Maldonado, Cerro dos Animais and Departamiento 33, Rio Olimar Chico).

Etymology. It is a pleasure to name this subspecies after Dr Kenneth C. Parkes of the Carnegie Museum, Pittsburgh, USA, for his contributions to the systematics of neotropical birds. Dr Parkes was the first to note the transitional character of the new taxon, through one of his "notes to posterity" placed in the drawers of the AMNH ornithological collection. These notes, well-known to museum workers at many institutions where the hand of Dr Parkes has passed, are invaluable guides to many unsolved avian systematic problems.

Variation. Little variation was observed in the plumage of 33 adult males from locations within the known distribution of the new subspecies. The black breast band is the most variable characteristic, and it may be wide (AMNH 780684) or faint (AMNH 780696), the latter, however, being a vestige of immature plumage. The adult females resemble adult males, but differ in having a Greenish Olive (49) back, breast band faint or absent, malar and auricular regions black mixed with olive, and wings significantly shorter ($t = 2.57$; $df = 60$; $p < 0.05$). Immature males and females are similar to the adult females, but differ in having the eyebrow white or white mixed with Warm Buff (118).

Specimens examined (all in AMNH). *S. a. parkesi*. ARGENTINA: Entre Rios, Santa Elena, Ea. Vizcacheras (20 ♂♂, 22 ♀♀, 1 ♂ imm., 1 ♀ imm.), Gualeguay, Ea. La Calera (10 ♂♂, 6 ♀♀, 6 ♂♂ imm., 1 ♀ imm.). BRAZIL: Rio Grande do Sul, Passo da Conceição (1 ♂, 1 ♀). URUGUAY: Maldonado, Cerro dos Animais (1 ♂); Depto. 33, Rio Olimar Chico (1 ♂). *S. a. parkesi* × *S. a. aurantiirostris*. ARGENTINA: Corrientes, San Luis de Palmar (5 ♂♂, 4 ♀♀), Concepcíon, Ea. Rincón de Luna (3 ♂♂, 1 ♀), Mercedes, Ea.

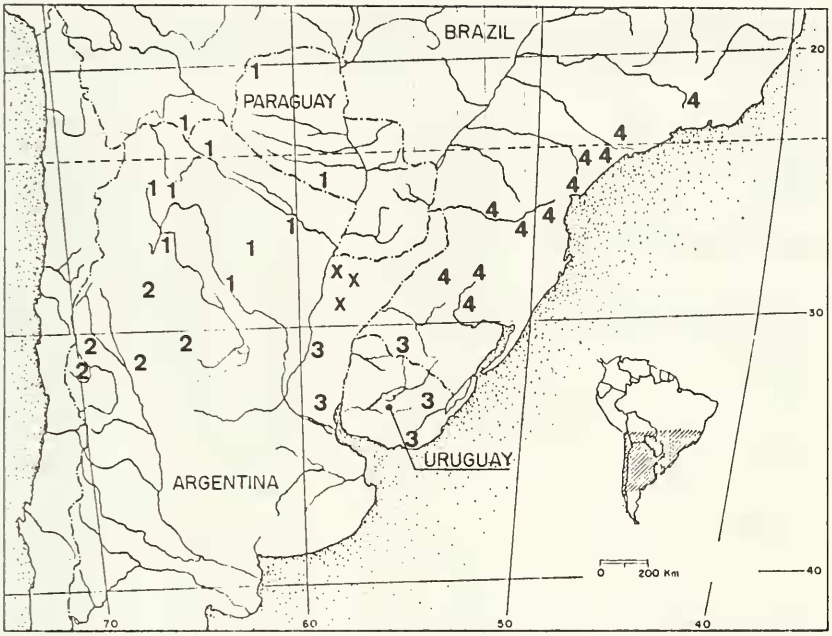

Figure 1. Distribution of *Saltator aurantiirostris*:— *S. a. aurantiirostris* (1); *S. a. nasica* (2); *S. a. parkesi* subsp. nov. (3); *S. a. parkesi* × *S. a. aurantiirostris* (X); *S. maxillosus* (4).

Rincón del Ombú (1 ♂, 1 ♀), La Soledad (2 ♂♂, 1 ♀). *S. a. aurantiirostris*. PARAGUAY: Chaco, Lichtenau (5 ♂♂); Tenente Enciso, Neuva Assuncion (1 ♂). ARGENTINA: Avia Terai (2 ♂♂), Mocovi (1 ♂); Salta Embarcacion (1 ♂), Rosário de Lerma (1 ♂); Santiago del Estero, Lavalle (1 ♂, 1 ♀), Suncho Corral (1 ♀); Jujuy, Perico (1 ♀); Tucuman, Tápia (2 ♂♂). *S. maxillosus*. BRAZIL: Rio Grande do Sul, Santa Cruz (2 ♂♂), Iauí (1 ♀), Itatiba do Sul (1 ♂); Santa Catarina, Ouro Verde (1 ♂, 1 ♀); Paraná, Porto Almeida (3 ♂♂, 1 ♀), Roca Nova (1 ♂); Rio de Janeiro, Itatiaia, Macieiras (1 ♂, 3 ♀♀, 2 ♂♂ imm.).

Additional remarks. The new subspecies is clearly a transition between *S. a. aurantiirostris*, with which it intergrades to the north (Fig. 1). and *S. maxillosus*. In common with *S. a. aurantiirostris, S. a. parkesi* males exhibit a black breast band and black malar and auricular regions, while the eyebrow of both sexes extends back almost to the nape. *S. a. parkesi* is similar to *S. maxillosus* in the colouration of the underparts and the complete lack of white patches on the terminal portion of the outer rectrices.

On average, the wings and tail of *S. a. parkesi* are larger than those of *S. a. aurantiirostris* (see Table 1). In comparison with *S. maxillosus*, the females of the new subspecies have shorter wings and tail, while the males have a larger bill. *S. a. aurantiirostris* has shorter wings and tail than *S. maxillosus* (Table 1).

TABLE 1

Mean, ± standard deviation, (number of specimens) and results of Student's t-test comparing selected measurements (mm) of ♂ and ♀ *Saltator a. aurantiirostris, S. a. parkesi* subsp. nov. and *S. maxillosus*. See "Additional remarks" in text.

		aurantiirostris	*parkesi*	t-test
Wing (flattened)	♂	90.7 ± 2.2 (3)	97.0 ± 2.4 (29)	< 0.001
	♀	92.2 ± 2.4 (14)	98.5 ± 2.2 (33)	< 0.001
Tail	♂	90.6 ± 1.7 (3)	94.9 ± 2.7 (23)	< 0.001
	♀	89.5 ± 2.7 (14)	95.3 ± 2.8 (28)	< 0.05
Exposed culmen	♂	19.0 ± 0.5 (3)	20.4 ± 0.9 (29)	NS
	♀	19.5 ± 1.0 (14)	20.7 ± 1.4 (33)	NS
		aurantiirostris	*maxillosus*	
Wing (flattened)	♂	90.7 ± 2.2 (3)	99.7 ± 2.8 (6)	< 0.001
	♀	92.2 ± 2.4 (14)	99.8 ± 3.4 (9)	< 0.01
Tail	♂	90.6 ± 1.7 (3)	97.6 ± 3.5 (6)	< 0.001
	♀	89.5 ± 2.7 (14)	97.2 ± 1.9 (7)	< 0.01
Exposed culmen	♂	19.0 ± 0.5 (3)	20.3 ± 0.9 (6)	NS
	♀	19.5 ± 1.0 (14)	19.6 ± 0.9 (8)	NS
		parkesi	*maxillosus*	
Wing (flattened)	♂	97.0 ± 2.4 (29)	99.7 ± 2.8 (6)	NS
	♀	98.5 ± 2.2 (33)	99.8 ± 3.4 (9)	< 0.05
Tail	♂	94.9 ± 2.7 (23)	97.6 ± 3.5 (6)	NS
	♀	95.3 ± 2.8 (28)	97.2 ± 1.9 (7)	< 0.05
Exposed culmen	♂	20.4 ± 0.9 (29)	20.3 ± 0.9 (6)	< 0.05
	♀	20.7 ± 1.4 (33)	19.6 ± 0.9 (8)	NS

Hellmayr (1938) recognized a strong affinity between *S. aurantiirostris* and *S. maxillosus*, a phylogenetic association which is now further strengthened by the recognition of the transitional form *S. a. parkesi*. This, however, in turn, would appear to question the taxonomic position of *S. maxillosus*.

Following Mayr's (1963) biological species concept (but see criticisms in Cracraft 1983, McKitrick & Zink 1988), the inclusion of *parkesi* in *S. aurantiirostris* is definitive, given the existence of an intergradation zone. There is no evidence of any intergradation between *S. a. parkesi* and *S. maxillosus*. In the possible contact zone of these 2 forms (the Brazilian state of Rio Grande do Sul), they are allopatric and exhibit considerable ecological differences (Belton 1985). *S. maxillosus* is found principally in the north of the state, where it prefers forests and forest margins, normally at relatively high elevations. *S. a. parkesi* occupies the south of the state and is common in open areas with few trees. This supports the present classification of *S. maxillosus* as a separate species. If further field studies reveal the existence of intermediate individuals, however unlikely this would seem at the present time, *S. maxillosus* should become a subspecies of *S. aurantiirostris*, the older name.

Acknowledgements

I thank Drs David C. Oren and Stephen Ferrari, who have provided useful comments and helped at various stages of this study; and Mary LeCroy and George Barrowclough for

giving me all the facilities in examining species in AMNH. A. S. Martins designed Fig. 1. Financial support came principally from WWF-USA, Conselho Nacional de Desenvolvimento Cientifico e Tecnológico (CNPq) and The Frank M. Chapman Memorial Fund.

References:
Belton, W. 1985. Birds of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil, Part 2. Formicariidae through Corvidae. *Bull. Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.* p. 180.
Chapman, F. M. 1927. The variations and distribution of *Saltator aurantiirostris*. *Amer. Mus. Novit.* p. 261.
Cracraft, J. 1983. Species concepts and speciation analysis. *Curr. Ornith.* 1: 159–187.
Hellmayr, C. E. 1938. Catalogue of birds of the Americas and the adjacent islands. *Field. Mus. Nat. Hist. Publ. Zool. Ser.* 13, Pt. II: 1–662.
Mayr, E. 1963. *Animal Species and Evolution.* Harvard University Press.
McKitrick, M. C. & Zink, R. 1988. Species concepts in ornithology. *Condor* 90: 1–14.
Meyer de Schauensee, R. 1982. *A Guide to the Birds of South America.* Acad. Nat. Sci., Philadelphia.
Paynter, R. A. Jr. 1970. Family Emberizidae. *In* R. A. Paynter Jr. & R. W. Storer. *Check-list of Birds of the World,* 13. Mus. Comp. Zool. Cambridge, Mass.
Smithe, F. B. 1975, 1981. *Naturalist's Color Guide and Supplement.* Amer. Mus. Nat. Hist.

Address: José Maria Cardoso da Silva, Museu Paraense Emílio Goeldi, Depto. Zoologia, Cx.P. 399, 66040, Belém, PA, Brazil.

© British Ornithologists' Club 1990

A critique of the description of *Amazona auropalliata caribaea* Lousada, 1989

by Kenneth C. Parkes

Received 20 March 1990

Lousada (1989) describes a supposed subspecies of the Yellow-naped Parrot *Amazona auropalliata* from the Bay Islands of Honduras. His paper contains serious flaws, attributable to Mr Lousada's admitted inexperience in taxonomic studies. No criticism is intended of the Editor and the readers of Mr Lousada's manuscript, as most of the flaws are not detectable from a reading of the paper itself. I wrote to Mr Lousada (30 January 1990) about several of the points I shall be mentioning, and he has responded to these (5 February 1990). I present first some background material on this group of parrots that was not included in Lousada's paper as published.

SPECIES LIMITS

Most authors (Peters 1937, Monroe & Howell 1966, Monroe 1968, Forshaw 1978, Ridgely 1982) have considered *A. auropalliata* (and *A. oratrix* of Mexico and Belize) to be conspecific with *A. ochrocephala* of northern South America north to Panama (with what appears to be an outlying population in northern Honduras). Several of these authors have suggested tentatively that this complex might better be treated as 3 allospecies. The American Ornithologists' Union (1983) has adopted this